

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 2439 - HB 2612**

March 21, 2018

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Establishes a procedure by which individuals at least 15 years of age may indicate they wish to be registered to vote upon turning 18 years of age when applying for a driver's permit, photo identification, or a driver license. Requires the county election commission to maintain information on such individuals for official purposes only until such time as they reach 18 years of age and are officially registered to vote.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$505,500/One-Time**

**Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$7,300/Recurring\***

**Assumptions:**

- The proposed language would require certain information to be published on applications for driver licenses, driver's permits, and photo identification licenses.
- According to the Department of Safety (DOS), new applications for driver licenses, driver permits, and photo identification licenses will have to be printed. The one-time increase in state expenditures is estimated to exceed \$100,000.
- Based on information provided by the DOS, updates to the current computer systems will be required to accommodate the required language to be included on digital registrations. Such modifications are estimated to exceed \$200,000.
- According to the Division of Elections, modifications to the voter registration database would be required to accommodate pre-registrations of individuals aged 15 to 17 years of age.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-2-138, individuals may request voter registration lists.
- Modifications to the voter registration database would be required in order to segregate individuals who are 15 to 17 years of age from being included in any such list generated because the proposed language requires the pre-registrant's information to be used for official purposes only.
- Based on information provided by the Secretary of State, it is estimated such modifications will result in a one-time increase in state expenditures exceeding \$205,500.
- County election commissions will be responsible for finalizing the voter registrations of pre-registered individuals upon their turning 18 years of age.

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- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-2-124, after determining that an individual is entitled to be registered, the administrator of elections shall give or mail each voter a registration card.
- The proposed language requires the DOS to transmit any change of address form they receive to the county election commission for individuals aged 15 to 17 years of age.
- In 2014, 132,142 valid driver licenses were issued for persons between the ages of 15 and 17 years of age.
- Assuming the number of transactions remains constant each fiscal year and approximately 10 percent of pre-registrants do not notify the DOS or county election commission of a change in residential address requiring additional notices of registration to be mailed, the mandatory recurring increase in local expenditures is estimated to exceed \$7,268 [(132,142 transactions x 10%) x (\$0.50 postage + \$0.05 envelope and printing costs per notification)].
- The total one-time increase in state expenditures is estimated to exceed \$505,500 (\$100,000 new application printing + \$200,000 registration system modifications + \$205,500 voter registration database modifications).

*\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

## **CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/jrh